

Statement on Formal Withdrawal From the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty

June 13, 2002

Six months ago, I announced that the United States was withdrawing from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, and today that withdrawal formally takes effect. With the treaty now behind us, our task is to develop and deploy effective defenses against limited missile attacks. As the events of September 11 made clear, we no longer live in the cold war world for which the ABM Treaty was designed. We now face new threats, from terrorists who seek to destroy our civilization by any means available to rogue states armed with weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles. Defending the American people against these threats is my highest priority as Commander in Chief.

The new strategic challenges of the 21st century require us to think differently. But they also require us to act. I call on the Congress to approve the full amount of the funding I have requested in my budget for missile defense. This will permit the United States to work closely with all nations committed to freedom to pursue the policies and capabilities needed to make the world a safer place for generations to come.

I am committed to deploying a missile defense system as soon as possible to protect the American people and our deployed forces against the growing missile threats we face. Because these threats also endanger our allies and friends around the world, it is essential that we work together to defend against them, an important task which the ABM Treaty prohibited. The United States will deepen our dialog and cooperation with other nations on missile defenses.

Last month, President Vladimir Putin and I agreed that Russia and the United States would look for ways to cooperate on missile defenses, including expanding military exercises, sharing early warning data, and exploring potential joint research and development of missile defense technologies. Over the past year, our countries have worked hard to overcome the legacy of the cold war and to dismantle its structures. The United States and Russia are building a new relationship

based on common interests and, increasingly, common values. Under the Treaty of Moscow, the nuclear arsenals of our nations will be reduced to their lowest levels in decades. Cooperation on missile defense will also make an important contribution to furthering the relationship we both seek.

Commencement Address at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio

June 14, 2002

Thank you all very much. I appreciate that very warm welcome. President Kirwan, thank you for inviting me. Governor Taft, Chairman Patterson, distinguished members of the Ohio State faculty, trustees, family members, distinguished guests, and most importantly, members of the mighty class of 2002. Congratulations. You've earned a degree at a great American institution, and you have every right to be proud.

I want to congratulate your parents. Many of you have written your last tuition check. [*Laughter*] That must be nice. I'm still writing them. [*Laughter*] You've given so much encouragement and support to your children, and their gratitude will only increase over the years. I also commend Ohio State's fine faculty, which has done so much to shape the minds and hopes of the graduating class.

One more word of congratulations is in order. Today I had the honor of meeting Coach Jim Tressel—most polite of him to share with me the really fine experience that the Buckeyes had up in Ann Arbor this year.

And I appreciate so very much the honorary degree you're conferring upon me today. I'm delighted that George Steinbrenner is receiving one as well. I guess we're both being honored as legends of baseball—[*laughter*]—legends, at least, in our own minds. [*Laughter*]

I am now the only person standing between you and your diploma. The tradition of commencement addresses is to be brief and forgotten. I assure you that this speech will be shorter than it seems.

Your senior year was special in your life, and the months since last September have been extraordinary in our country's history. On a Tuesday morning, America went from

a feeling of security to one of vulnerability, from peace to war, from a time of calm to a great and noble cause. We're called to defend liberty against tyranny and terror. We've answered that call. We will bring security to our people and justice to our enemies.

In the last 9 months, we've seen the true character of our country. We learned of firefighters who wrote their Social Security numbers on their arms with felt tip pens, to mark and identify their bodies, and then rushed into burning buildings. We learned of the desperate courage of passengers on Flight 93, average citizens who led the first counter-attack in the war on terror. We watched the searchers, month after month, fulfill their grim duty and New Yorkers line the streets to cheer them on their way to work each morning. And in these events, we relearned something large and important: The achievements that last and count in life come through sacrifice and compassion and service.

Some believe this lesson in service is fading as distance grows from the shock of September the 11th, that the good we have witnessed is shallow and temporary. Your generation will respond to these skeptics, one way or another. You will determine whether our new ethic of responsibility is the break of a wave or the rise of a tide. You will determine whether we become a culture of selfishness and look inward or whether we will embrace a culture of service and look outward.

Because this decision is in your hands, I'm confident of the outcome. Your class and your generation understand the need for personal responsibility, so you will make a culture of service a permanent part of American life. After all, nearly 70 percent of your class volunteers in some form, from Habitat for Humanity to Big Brothers and Big Sisters to OhioReads. Ohio State has been a leading source of Peace Corps volunteers since 1961. I honor the 29 ROTC members in today's graduating class for their spirit of service and idealism.

I hope each of you—I hope each of you will help build this culture of service, for three important reasons: Service is important to your neighbors; service is important to your character; and service is important to your country.

First, your idealism is needed in America. In the shadow of our Nation's prosperity, too many children grow up without love and guidance. Too many women are abandoned and abused. Too many men are addicted and illiterate, and too many elderly Americans live in loneliness. These Americans are not strangers; they are fellow citizens, not problems but priorities. They are as much a part of the American community as you and I, and they deserve better from this country.

Government has essential responsibilities: Fighting wars and fighting crime; protecting the homeland and enforcing civil rights laws; educating the young and providing for the old; giving people tools to improve their lives; helping the disabled and those in need. But you have responsibilities as well. Some Government needs—some needs Government cannot fulfill, the need for kindness and for understanding and for love. A person in crisis often needs more than a program or a check. He needs a friend, and that friend can be you. We are commanded by God and called by our conscience to love others as we want to be loved ourselves. Let us answer that call with every day we are given.

Second, service is important in your own life, in your own character. No one can tell you how to live or what cause to serve, but everyone needs some cause larger than his or her own profit. Apathy has no adventures. Cynicism leaves no monuments. And a person who is not responsible for others is a person who is truly alone.

By sharing the pain of a friend or bearing the hopes of a child or defending the liberty of your fellow citizens, you will gain satisfaction that cannot be gained in any other way. Service is not a chain or a chore. It gives direction to your gifts and purpose to your freedom.

Lyndsey Holben is an OSU sophomore majoring in business. When she was in high school, Lyndsey had a friend and a classmate who died from an illness, and Lyndsey decided she wanted to work with children who suffer from life-threatening diseases. Today, Lyndsey is a leader among volunteers for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Here's what she had to say: "It's hard enough to put a smile on someone's face but especially someone who is hurting. Even if that's all you can do,

that is something, and there is no better feeling in the world.” Lyndsey and others here today have learned that every life of service is a life of significance.

Third, we serve others because we’re Americans, and we want to do something for the country we love. Our Nation is the greatest force for good in history, and we show our gratitude by doing our duty.

Patriotism is expressed by flying the flag, but it is more. Patriotism means we share a single country. In all our diversity, each of us has a bond with every other American. Patriotism is proven in our concern for others, a willingness to sacrifice for people we may never have met or seen. Patriotism is our obligation to those who have gone before us, to those who will follow us, and to those who have died for us.

In March of this year, Army Ranger Marc Anderson died in Afghanistan, trying to rescue a Navy SEAL. Marc and five others gave their lives in fulfilling the Ranger creed: “I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy.”

Marc, from Westerville, Ohio, was a remarkable man. Instead of pursuing a career that might have made him wealthy, Marc decided to be a math teacher in a high school in a tough neighborhood. He was a mentor, a tutor, and the best teacher many students ever had. After September the 11th, Marc joined the fight against terrorism. “I’m trained, and I’m ready,” he wrote to his friends. Before Marc left for Afghanistan, he arranged for part of his life insurance to pay for one of his former students to attend college. Today, that student, Jennifer Massing, plans to go to the University of Florida to study architecture.

Marc Anderson considered this country great enough to die for. Surely it is great enough to live for. And we live for America by serving others. And as we serve others, this challenge can only be answered in individual hearts. Service in America is not a matter of coercion; it is a matter of conscience. So today I’m making an appeal to your conscience, for the sake of our country.

America needs more than taxpayers, speculators, and occasional voters. America needs full-time citizens. America needs men and women who respond to the call of duty, who

stand up for the weak, who speak up for their beliefs, who sacrifice for a greater good. America needs your energy and your leadership and your ambition. And through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency, we will change America one soul at a time, and we will build a culture of service.

I have asked all Americans to commit at least 2 years—4,000 hours over a lifetime—to the service of our neighbors and our Nation. My administration created what we call the USA Freedom Corps to help Americans find service opportunities at home and abroad. We’re doubling the size of the Peace Corps. We’ll increase AmeriCorps by 50 percent. We’ve created Citizen Corps to help protect the homeland.

And today I’m announcing an historic partnership. We are bringing together the broadest group of service organizations ever assembled to create the USA Freedom Corps Network. The USA Freedom Corps Network includes America’s Promise, the Points of Light Foundation, the United Way, VolunteerMatch, SERVENet, and many other organizations—will be the most comprehensive clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities ever assembled. This network will enable you to find volunteer opportunities within your neighborhoods and communities and in countries around the globe.

One of the main reasons people give for not volunteering is that no one has asked them to do so. Another reason: They don’t know where to start. Well, today I’m asking each of you to serve your country, and through the USA Freedom Corps Network, you’ve got a place to start. All that remains is for you to answer the call to service. I hope you do, and I believe you will.

A life of service isn’t always easy. It involves sacrifices, and I understand many other things will lay claim to your time and to your attention. In serving, however, you will give help and hope to others. You will—your own life will gain greater purpose and deeper meaning. You will show your love and allegiance to the United States, which remains what it has always been, a citadel of freedom, a land of mercy, the last, best hope of man on Earth.

And so to the graduates of Ohio State University: Congratulations on your achievement. I want to thank you for this honorary degree. I leave here a proud member of the class of 2002. I leave here confident that you will serve our country and a cause greater than self. May God bless you and your families, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. in Ohio Stadium, after receiving an honorary doctorate in public administration. In his remarks, he referred to William E. Kirwan, president, James F. Patterson, chairman of the board of trustees, and Jim Tressel, head football coach, Ohio State University; Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; and George Steinbrenner III, principal owner, New York Yankees.

Statement on Signing the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2002

June 14, 2002

I have today signed into law S. 1372, the Export-Import Bank Reauthorization Act of 2002. This legislation will ensure the continued effective operation of the Export-Import Bank, which helps advance U.S. trade policy, facilitate the sale of U.S. goods and services abroad, and create jobs here at home.

The executive branch shall carry out section 7(b) of the bill, which relates to certain small businesses, in a manner consistent with the requirements of equal protection under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

Subsections 10(a) and 10(b)(2) of the bill purport to require the Secretary of the Treasury to negotiate with foreign countries and international organizations to achieve particular purposes and to require the Secretary to submit a report to congressional committees on the contents of negotiations and certain related executive deliberations. These provisions interfere with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, supervise the unitary executive branch, and withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the executive, or the performance of the executive's constitutional duties.

Accordingly, the executive branch shall construe these provisions as precatory rather than mandatory.

The executive branch shall construe the reference to the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948," added to section 2(b)(1)(B) of the Export-Import Bank Act by section 15 of the bill, as only providing examples of types of human rights that the President may wish to consider in making a determination under section 2(b)(1)(B) and not as giving the Universal Declaration the force of U.S. law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 14, 2002.

NOTE: S. 1372, approved June 14, was assigned Public Law No. 107-189. An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 9

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

June 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

June 11

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Gracia Burnham to express his condolences concerning the death of her husband, Martin Burnham, an American missionary who had been held hostage in the Philippines by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group and was killed June 7 during a rescue attempt.